

Appln. No. 10/679,554

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1859

**II. Remarks**

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 stand rejected and claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1). Claims 1 and 7 are being cancelled, and claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are being amended. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 2 through 6 remain pending.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 6 if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is being represented in independent form including the limitation of the base claim (claim 1). Specifically, in addition to the limitations of original claim 1, claim 6 requires an accumulation region having a terminal end sloped relative to the entrance of the accumulation region so that separated oil flows from the entrance towards the terminal end.

Further, claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2, 3, and 5 have been amended accordingly to depend from claim 6.

In view off the above, it is submitted that claims 2 through 6 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.



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*Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)*

Claims 1 through 5 and claim 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,421,708 to Utter et al. (Litter).

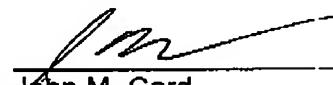
As discussed above, claim 6 has been re-presented in allowable form including the limitations of claim 1, and claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled. Further, since claims 2 through 5 depend from claim 6, directly or indirectly, the reasons for allowance of claim 6 apply as well to the dependent claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claim 2 through 6 are respectfully requested.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims (claims 2 through 6) are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,



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